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The Neurone in Anatomy and Physiology. — The neurone theory of the structure of the nervous system as promulgated by Waldeyer in 1891 has been subjected to nearly ten years of rigorous criticism, and the outcome of this, so far as the present standing of the theory is concerned, has been well presented by Professor Verworn,¹ in his address before the Seventy-Second Meeting of the German Naturalists and Physicians. The fundamental postulate of the neurone theory, namely, that nerve fibres are processes from ganglion cells and that the so-called ganglion cell with these processes constitutes the real cellular unit of the nervous system, is clearly stated at the outset. The possibly closer union of these units than has heretofore been admitted, particularly by the adherents of the contact theory, is considered in the light of the recent work by Apáthy and by Bethe and pronounced still uncertain. The whole issue of this discussion is rightly shown to be of secondary importance so far as the stability of the neurone theory is concerned.

From the physiological side the author makes an excellent presentation of the question as to the significance of ganglion cells. The recent arguments of Bethe and of Steinach, to the effect that central nervous operations are possible without ganglion cells, are shown to be inconclusive, and many important observations made on animals subjected to nerve poisons are adduced to show that central nervous operations are dependent on ganglion cells for more than a supply of nutritive material. The essay concludes with the statement that the anatomical and physiological investigations of the last ten years have left the neurone theory on a firm basis and is unquestionably one of the best recent estimates of the present standing of that theory.

P.

Avian Helminths. — An important contribution on the frequency and distribution of the internal parasites of birds has recently been published by Wolffhügel.² In all 630 hosts belonging to 73 species of birds were examined. Most of them were native in the country immediately bordering on the southern Rhine, but a few came from the collection of the Basel Zoölogical Garden. In all 180 birds proved to be uninfected; the rest harbored of cestodes 35 species in 231 hosts, of trematodes 19 species in 124 hosts, of nematodes 26 species in 252 hosts, and of Acanthocephala 11 species in 41 hosts.

¹ Verworn, M. *Das Neuron in Anatomie und Physiologie*. Jena, G. Fischer, 1900. 54 pp.

² Wolffhügel, K. *Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Vogelhelminthen*. Dissertation. Freiburg, B. 1900. 204 pp., 7 double plates.